

Clark County Coroner  
1704 Pinto Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
(702) 455-3210



## AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

October 3, 2017

### AUTOPSY REPORT

PATHOLOGIC EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF



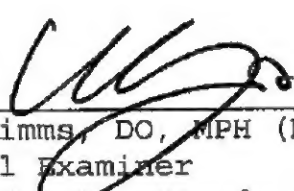
### DIAGNOSES

1. Gunshot Wound of the Left Back, Penetrating (see injury description).
2. Hemothorax, Left, Chest.
3. Hemopericardium, Heart.
4. Aspiration of Blood, Lungs.
5. Pale Internal Organs consistent with Acute Blood Loss.
6. Pulmonary Edema, Bilateral, Lungs.

### OPINION

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** It is my opinion that this [REDACTED]-year-old female, [REDACTED], died as a result of GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE LEFT BACK.

**MANNER OF DEATH:** HOMICIDE.

  
Lary Simms, DO, MPH (DABP-AP, CP, FP)  
Medical Examiner  
Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas)

DATE: Dec 20 2017

LS/rg/amu

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### POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF



**NOTICE:** Forensic, medical and scientific evidence as proof of a fact can establish that fact to an extent varying between slight possibility to certainty. The minimal standard of proof for all conclusions in this report is to a reasonable degree of scientific, medical and forensic certainty; the degree of certainty for any given conclusion in this report can range from this lowest standard of certainty up to beyond a reasonable doubt.

The manner of death is based on the information available at the time of signature.

**AUTOPSY:** Date of pronounced death is October 2, 2017. The autopsy is performed by Lary Simms, DO, MPH, Medical Examiner, at 1645 hours, October 3, 2017.

**CLOTHING:** The body is received unclothed; a paper ID bracelet is present on the left wrist; accompanying the body are black bottoms, black underwear, patterned top, and black bra.

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:** The body is that of a normally developed obese adult. Rigor mortis is minimal and symmetrical. Lividity is present posteriorly and over the head, neck, and shoulders. The head hair is dark. The uninjured scalp is unremarkable. The eyes are closed. The corneas are cloudy. The irides are dark. The nose, lips and mouth are unremarkable. The teeth are natural and in fair repair. No injuries are identified to the external neck. The chest is unremarkable. The abdomen demonstrates striae but is otherwise unremarkable. The extremities are equally and symmetrically developed. Fingerprint ink is present on the hands bilaterally. The fingernails and toenails are medium in length. The external genitalia are female and a perineal pad is present. The back and buttocks show no evidence of natural disease.

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### INVENTORY OF TATTOOS:

COMMENT: Multiple tattoos are present some of which are as follows:

1. A heart located in the right lower abdomen.
2. A circumferential iconographic tattoo at the left ankle.

### INVENTORY OF RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS:

COMMENT: Digital radiographs are interpreted on an ENTUITIVE monitor; extracorporeal objects are present. Remote medical intervention is present.

1. Postmortem regional radiographs of the head and neck are unremarkable.
2. Postmortem regional radiograph of the chest demonstrates opacification of the left lung field; a left-to-right mediastinal shift is present; ballistically significant and insignificant bullet fragments are scattered over the left chest; the soft tissues of the left chest demonstrate air; the left posterolateral sixth rib demonstrates fracture.
3. Postmortem regional radiographs of the abdomen and pelvis demonstrate ballistically insignificant bullet fragment projected over the left upper abdomen.
4. Postmortem regional radiographs of the extremities are unremarkable.

### INVENTORY OF GUNSHOT INJURY:

1. Located in the left back 15.5 inches from the top of the head and 6.1 inches to the left of midline is a gunshot wound of entrance that measures 0.22 in overall dimensions; the wound is composed of a central hole measuring 0.12 inch

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in dimension and a circumferential abrasion, measuring up to 0.05 inches in dimension. The wound is associated with ecchymosis.

The bullet courses through the skin and subcutaneous tissues of the left back and enters the left pleural cavity through the sixth rib; the bullet courses through the upper lobe of the left lung and is associated with contusion of the lower lobe of the left lung; the bullet grazes the base of the left ventricle [including the anterior descending branch, major artery branches and diagonal branches of the left coronary artery] and exits through the left parasternal thoracic cage in the second intercostal space.

The left pleural cavity contains 1800 ml of liquid blood and 100 grams of clot. The pericardial sac contains 50 ml of liquid blood; the soft tissues of the left chest demonstrate broad areas of hemorrhage.

Multiple jacket and deformed lead bullet fragments are recovered from the soft tissues of the central and left chest.

The bullet courses from back-to-front and left-to-right directly. Examination of the wound entrance shows no evidence of close range firing.

### INVENTORY OF ADDITIONAL FINDINGS:

1. The right upper arm demonstrates several irregular ecchymosis.
2. The right lower arm demonstrates several irregular ecchymosis at various stages of healing.
3. The left knee demonstrates a curvilinear dermal scar.

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4. The legs bilaterally demonstrate scattered irregular and curvilinear hyperpigmented and hypopigmented areas.
5. The arms bilaterally demonstrate scattered irregular and curvilinear hyperpigmented and hypopigmented areas.
6. The left elbow demonstrates an irregular abrasion.
7. The left upper arm demonstrates several irregular ecchymosis.
8. Epistaxis is present.
9. The plantar surface of the feet demonstrates adherent detritus.
10. The skin surfaces of the lateral aspect of the left lower leg demonstrate broad area of adherent black-gray material.

### INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

### MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS (approximate/estimate only):

Height: 69 inches  
Weight: 283 pounds  
Heart: 405 grams  
Lungs: 900 grams  
Liver: 2150 grams  
Spleen: 205 grams  
Kidneys: 320 grams  
Brain: 1380 grams

**BODY CAVITIES:** The body is entered by a Y-shaped incision. Except for the findings previously described, the peritoneal surfaces of the body cavities are unremarkable. The internal organs that are present retain their normal anatomic position and relationships.

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**NECK ORGANS:** The tongue shows no external injury and on serial sectioning is unremarkable. The surfaces of the epiglottis show no abnormalities.

The suprahyoid and infrahyoid (strap) muscles of the neck are dissected in layers and show no evidence of antemortem hemorrhage.

The hyoid bone is dissected. The synchondroses of the hyoid bone are partially-fused and intact. The greater horns of the hyoid bone show no evidence of fracture or periosteal hemorrhage.

The thyroid cartilage is dissected. The superior horns and laminae show no evidence of fracture or perichondral hemorrhage.

The cricoid cartilage ring is dissected. The cricothyroid membrane shows no evidence of hemorrhage. The cricoid cartilage shows no evidence of fracture or perichondral hemorrhage.

The prevertebral soft tissue and muscles of the cervical vertebral column show no evidence of antemortem hemorrhage. The anterior cervical vertebral column shows no evidence of hemorrhage, fracture or dislocation.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The aortic vessels are unremarkable.

The coronary arteries have a normal surface course and configuration; coronary circulation is right dominant. On serial sectioning, except for the findings previously described the left coronary system and right coronary system exhibit no significant pathologic changes.

Except for the findings previously described, the epicardial surfaces of the heart are unremarkable.

The valves of the heart are unremarkable; the left ventricular wall thickness ranges from 1.3 to 1.5 cm. On serial sectioning, except for the findings previously described the myocardium is

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unremarkable. On serial sectioning the myocardium displays no focal pathologic changes.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The trachea and major bronchi demonstrate aspirated blood. The pulmonary vessels are unobstructed. On serial sectioning in addition to the findings previously described the pulmonary parenchyma demonstrates aspirated blood and edema.

**HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:** The capsular surface of the liver is smooth and without adhesions. On serial sectioning the hepatic parenchyma has a normal consistency and color. The gallbladder and biliary tract are unremarkable.

**HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM:** The capsular surface of the spleen is smooth and without adhesions. On serial sectioning the splenic parenchyma is pale. The internal lymph nodes identified are unremarkable.

**GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:** The esophagus is unremarkable. Stomach content is a few milliliters of brown fluid. The stomach, small bowel and colon are unremarkable. The pancreas has a normal size and on serial sectioning is pale.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The renal surfaces are granular. On serial sectioning the renal cortex is pale with normal thickness. The calyces, pelves and ureters are unremarkable.

The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are present and unremarkable. The endometrium is hemorrhagic.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The thyroid gland has a normal size and on serial sectioning is pale and has a faint nodular appearance. The adrenal glands have a normal size and on serial sectioning are pale. The rest of the endocrine system shows no identifiable abnormalities.

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**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:** The scalp, subscalp soft tissue and calvaria show no evidence of injury. On entering the cranial cavity the membranous compartments are free of hemorrhage. The leptomeninges and the surfaces of the cerebral hemispheres are unremarkable. The vessels at the base of the brain have a normal configuration. The base of the skull shows no evidence of injury. On serial sectioning the brain is pale and reveals no grossly visible changes of natural disease.

### PHYSICAL EVIDENCE RECOVERY AND DISPOSITION:

1. Multiple jacket and small caliber lead bullet fragments recovered from the soft tissues of the central and left chest to custody of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

### FLUIDS AND TISSUES SUBMITTED:

1. Postmortem chest blood.
2. Postmortem peripheral blood (iliac vein).
3. Liver tissue.
4. Bile.
5. Brain tissue.
6. Vitreous humor.
7. Autopsy tissue to stock.

### TESTING ORDERED:

1. Toxicologic analysis [NMS: Basic] on autopsy blood.